



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: **Adam Herman** (330) 438-4304 Office
adam.herman@cantonohio.gov (330) 495-4181 Mobile

City, schools, and local businesses team up for litter prevention
Programs will educate students and clean up city neighborhoods

CANTON, Ohio - **Canton Mayor William Healy** and **Canton City Schools Board of Education President James Carman** announced Wednesday that they are partnering with **Wal-Mart**, **McDonald's**, **Hub Victor Trophies**, and the **Canton Museum of Art** to sponsor a series of educational programs and community events to teach area students about litter control and prevention. The series, which kicks off on Saturday with a community clean-up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in neighborhoods surrounding Hartford Middle School, aims to reduce the amount of trash and other refuse that accumulates on city streets.

"It is important to instill a sense of community pride in our students at a young age so that they can carry that forward with them for the rest of their lives," said James Carman Jr., President of the Canton City Schools Board of Education. "This program represents a positive step in that direction."

City officials and school district representatives will provide students with educational materials about litter prevention and recycling in science classes and educational assemblies in the coming weeks. Saturday's community clean-up will take place in the neighborhoods surrounding Hartford Middle School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and is sponsored by local **McDonald's franchisee Siegfried Enterprises** and **Wal-Mart**. Participants will use supplies donated by Wal-Mart during the clean-up and receive a free box lunch from McDonald's as a thank-you for contributing their time and effort.

"Young people are our most valuable asset," said **Mayor William Healy**. "These programs will allow us to strengthen this asset and guarantee a stronger future for Canton. We thank those individuals and organizations that are giving their time and money to make this program a success, and look forward to future partnerships that will help serve the needs of our city."

The education series will conclude in December with the Second Annual Mayor's Young Inventor Challenge, which awards prizes to city youths who create useful inventions out of recyclable materials. **Wal-Mart**, which is sponsoring the challenge for a second year, awarded a dozen city students with \$2300 in store gift cards at last year's competition. First- and second-place winners will be awarded \$500 and \$250 Wal-mart gift cards respectively, with honorable mention winners receiving a \$100 gift card. To create a level playing field, participants will be divided into two age groups (grades 7-8 and grades 9-12) for the competition. Prizes will be awarded to top performers in each category.

Local business **Hub Victor Trophies** has also agreed to sponsor the Challenge again this year by donating commemorative plaques to those students who place in the competition.

A new sponsor of the Mayor's Young Inventor Challenge this year is the **Canton Museum of Art**, which opens an exciting new exhibit called "*Something from Nothing*" in November. The showcase will feature artwork created from recycled materials by ten "Rust Belt" artists including local artist Joseph Close and



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Ohio artists Willis “Bing” Davis and Tony Armeni. The show runs from November 27, 2009 through February 28, 2010.

CMA Executive Director M. J. Albacete said he was “thrilled” when he heard about the Mayor’s challenge, and said he looks forward to judging the competition in December.

“There is a powerful movement underway in our community to become more environmentally conscious,” said Albacete. “These two events are the perfect way to show residents young and old that many items traditionally discarded can be made useful once again with only a little effort and ingenuity.”

The Second Annual Mayor’s Young Inventor Challenge will take place on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 in the McKinley Room of the Canton Memorial Civic Center from 6 to 8 p.m. Any student living within city boundaries in the selected age groups is eligible to compete regardless of which school he/she attends.

All participants and their families will receive free admission during the competition to the “*Something from Nothing*” exhibit at the Canton Museum of Art for their participation.

Students interested in participating should visit www.cantonohio.gov/mayor to download a registration form and a set of rules.

- For more information about Saturday’s **community clean-up** at Hartford Middle School, residents should call Derek Gordon at (330) 438-4305.
- For more information about the planned **education series**, residents should call Robyn Matulich at (330) 438-2754.
- For more information about the **Mayor’s Young Inventor Challenge**, residents should call Adam Herman at (330) 438-4304 or visit www.cantonohio.gov/mayor to download materials.
- For more information about the “**Something from Nothing**” exhibit at the Canton Museum of Art, residents should call Mary Byrne at (330) 453-0637 or visit www.cantonart.org.

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